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Quotables

"The first thing I would do is hop in a car and come up here."

—Robert Gates, nominee for director of the CIA, telling the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence how he'd respond if he knew a government agency hadn't told the committee about a covert intelligence operation.

"You're learning, Mr. Gates."

—U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley [D., N.J.], a member of the committee, responding to the nominee.

"The church isn't a democracy. We don't shift teachings according to the latest Gallup Poll."

—Rev. John G. Woolsey, an official of the New York Catholic Archdiocese, on the pressure to get the church to ease its views against homosexuality.

"You have to remember Oral does not perceive death as a downside kind of thing."

—Jan Dargatz, a vice president at Oral Roberts University, on the flap over whether TV evangelist Roberts really heard from God that his life would end if he failed in a fund-raising mission.